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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our heavenly Father, give us the courage to continue with hope when the days are difficult and our work is challenging. Stay near to our Senators, particularly when they are weary and when doubts and anxieties assail them. Give them the wisdom to do their best and leave the rest to Your loving care.

Lord, take their lips and speak through them; take their minds and think through them; take their hearts and love humanity through them.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 14, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business until 3 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. Upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message with respect to H.R. 4213, which is the tax extenders legislation.

There will be no rollcall votes today. Senators should expect the next votes to begin around 11:50 a.m. tomorrow. Those votes will be on confirmation of several District Court nominations: Tanya Pratt of Indiana, Brian Jackson of Louisiana, and Elizabeth Foote of Louisiana.

FIXING AMERICA'S PROBLEMS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we will learn a lot this week about who wants to fix problems and who wants to make excuses. This week will be the seventh week the emergency unemployment insurance bill has been on the Senate floor. It is another week the good families in Nevada and across the country

have to struggle to make ends meet after their benefits have expired—to simply cover the basics while they look for full-time work.

If my friends on the other side of the aisle have their way, this week will be yet another week with no lifeline for the most needy—those willing to work and who are waiting to work. The other side has slowed and stalled almost every piece of legislation this year, just as they did last year and the year before. And that is not a secret. The numbers don't lie and the Republicans make no efforts to hide their strategy of delay. That is why today they are known as the party of no.

But that strategy has consequences. The first is unemployment insurance. Years of disastrous Republican policies led to the worst economic disaster in generations. That, in turn, led to layoffs in nearly every industry in every State. When millions of Americans lost their jobs, they lost their incomes, their homes, their savings, their gas money, their tuition payments, all through no fault of their own. Democrats aren't about to turn their backs on out-of-work Americans, which is why we are trying to help them keep their heads above water in this emergency.

The second casualty is Medicaid funding, known as FMAP, so the poorest of the poor in our communities can see a doctor when they get sick. Many States, including the State of Nevada, have budgeted for this money and count on us to deliver it. Nevada is counting on more than \$100 million. Others are waiting on billions of dollars. If we don't deliver, we will leave huge holes in State budgets that will be filled with other deep and drastic cuts affecting the basic goodness of our country and directly the lives of millions. Critical services from coast to coast will bear the burden. We have to pass this bill on the FMAP legislation. We have to do it to protect those services and the jobs they create.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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